

## CLAIMS

1. Compact tripod (1) including at least three legs (2) converging in a spider (3) to which the legs (2) are hinged at one end through corresponding hinge means (13) and counter means (15), and a support (5) for a head (6) mounted in the said spider (3) in a position such that the said support (5) projects from the said spider (3) on the side opposite the said legs (2) when the said tripod (1) is open in an operating position, and in which said hinge means (13) and counter-means (15) are designed to allow the legs (2) to be folded back from that part of the said support (5) when the said tripod (1) is closed in a non-operating position, characterized in that said hinge means (13) and counter-means (15) comprise toothed means (27,28) and corresponding stop means for the said toothed means (27,28) which are capable of interacting together to limit the extent by which the said legs (2) open with respect to the said spider (3).
2. Tripod (1) according to Claim 1 in which the said hinge means (13) and counter-means (15) are designed to permit relative rotation between the legs (2) and the spider (3) through an angle of 90° or more.
3. Tripod (1) according to Claim 2 in which the said hinge means (13) and counter-means (15) are designed to allow relative rotation between the legs (2) and spider (3) through an angle of between 90° and approximately 180°.
4. Tripod (1) according to any of the preceding claims in which the toothed means (27,28) comprise a plurality of teeth (27,28) angularly offset with respect to each other on a hinge sleeve (13) of one piece with the said spider (3) and the said stop means comprise a lever (25) with a shoulder (33) which can be moved on the leg (2) into positions such that it interferes

selectively abutting against one of the said teeth (27,28) to limit the angle through which the said leg opens.

5. Tripod (1) according to Claim 4 in which the said teeth (27,28) are positioned on projections coaxial with the said sleeve (13).
- 5 6. Tripod (1) according to Claim 4 or 5 in which a free length (29) is provided on the said sleeve (13) which does not interfere with the said stop means so that when the said stop means are positioned on the said free length (29) the said legs (2) can be folded back between the operating position and the non-operating position.
- 10 7. Tripod (1) according to one or more of claims 4-6 in which the said lever (25) is provided with an operating appendage (30) which is accessible from the side opposite the spider (3) when the legs (2) are in the operating position.
8. Tripod (1) according to one or more of claims 4-7 in which the lever (25) is resiliently stressed towards a position in which it engages with a tooth (27)  
15 distance from the said free length (29).
9. Tripod (1) according to one or more of the preceding claims in which the said support (5) is mounted on a column (4) which is movably engaged in the said spider (3) in an adjustable manner.
10. Tripod (1) according to claim 9 in which said head (6) fitted to the said  
20 support (5) is provided with a plate (7) which can be orientated substantially at right angles with respect to the axis of the column (4) when the tripod (1) is closed in the non-operating position.